



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY ARMOR CENTER AND FORT KNOX
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

ATZK-MS (40)

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, All Units Reporting Directly to This Headquarters
Commanders, Fort Knox Partners in Excellence
Directors and Chiefs, Staff Office/Departments, This Headquarters

SUBJECT: Prevention of Cold Injuries

1. REFERENCES:

- a. TB MED 508, Prevention and Management of Cold-Weather Injuries, April 2005
 - b. Army Cold Weather Injury Prevention Guidance 2005-2006, 16 November 2005
 - c. Cold Weather Injury Prevention information and training aid products,
<http://www.iach.knox.amedd.army.mil/cwip/>.
2. GENERAL. A comprehensive cold weather injury prevention and management program should follow the principles of risk management by identifying hazards, assessing the hazards in terms of severity and probability, and implementing appropriate controls to abate the hazards. Spot-checking and supervision by first-line leaders should be employed to ensure control measures are being implemented. Units train using risk management principles; therefore commanders and leaders should apply the same framework to prevent cold weather injuries. Cold casualty prevention is a Command responsibility.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES.

- a. Unit Commanders, and leaders when appropriate, will:
 - (1) Use the *Unit Leader's and Instructor's Risk Management Steps for Preventing Cold Casualties* guidance included as Enclosure 1.
 - (2) Assess training/mission hazards from cold, wetness, and wind exposure. (See enclosure 1 for details)
 - (a) During the advance planning stages, incorporate information about the mean and extreme climatic conditions at the deployment site, to include the 24-hour pattern of temperature and humidity and the times of sunrise and sunset.
 - (b) Obtain regular real-time, local weather data and predictions to identify windows of opportunity for critical military operations. Commanders may obtain the necessary weather information by going to the Fort Knox homepage and clicking on "Fort Knox Weather" or by contacting OL-C 18th Weather, Weather Squadron (USAF) at 624-5653.
 - (3) Develop and implement controls for cold, wetness, and wind exposure. (See enclosure 1 for details)

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(4) Provide safe alternative training for individuals or units identified as being at particular risk for cold casualties.

(5) Ensure adherence to the physical fitness training guidance provided in Enclosure 2.

(6) Conduct formal training to all personnel in the prevention, recognition, and prompt treatment of cold injuries before the start of the cold season. Initial Entry Training Soldiers should be trained in cold injury prevention early in each cold season cycle.

(7) Integrate the medical officer (if available) into all planning decisions for cold weather operations.

b. USAMEDDAC Preventive Medicine will:

(1) Interview soldiers diagnosed as having signs and symptoms of cold injury to describe predisposing conditions and the circumstances surrounding the development.

(2) Use the Tri-service Reportable Medical Events System to report cold casualties.

(3) Communicate to field commanders immediately upon recognition of cold injury sentinel events and clusters.

(4) Conduct cold injury prevention training upon request. Commanders may obtain additional information on the prevention of cold injuries as well as schedule cold weather injury prevention classes by contacting MEDDAC Preventive Medicine at 624-0508. Training aids and policies may also be obtained by accessing the Cold Injury Prevention Webpage at <http://www.iach.knox.amedd.army.mil/cwip/> or by going to the Fort Knox homepage and clicking on "Cold Weather Injury Prevention".

FOR THE COMMANDER:

2 Encls

STEVEN E. BRAVERMAN
COL, MC
Director of Health Services

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